

Congresswoman

**NYDIA M. VELAZQUEZ**

Representing New York's 12th Congressional District

Ranking Democratic Member, House Small Business Committee



## Velázquez Opens NYC Anti-War Rally

At least 500,000 attendees Say "No" to War



**Congresswoman Velázquez opened the February 15th anti-war rally.**

Congresswoman Nydia M. Velázquez opened the NYC "World Says No to War" rally in front of about 500,000 protesters to voice her opposition to President Bush's planned unilateral attack on Iraq and asked, "Why must we rush into war?"

Velázquez told attendees they were part of a world community and that their message would be heard. The Congresswoman emphasized the U.S.'s moral obligation as a world leader to promote diplomacy and peace over war.

"I want to fight the real axis of evil: homelessness, poverty and racism," Congresswoman Velázquez said. "If the president put half the effort into fighting for working families that he has fighting his father's ghost, just imagine where we would be today."

## \$1.1 Million for Brooklyn Projects

Congresswoman Nydia M. Velázquez announced federal funding in the amounts of \$500,000 for Make the Road by Walking (MRBW), \$180,000 for the Sunset Park Business Improvement District (SPBID), \$25,000 for the Waterfront Museum, and \$375,000 for Woodhull Medical Center -- for a total award of \$1.1 million for local projects.

MRBW will use the \$500,000 to start a Community Literacy and Arts Center that will offer programming for community members of all ages.

SPBID will use the funding to create a plan to revitalize 5th Avenue between 38th and 64th Streets, also known as the 5th Avenue Renaissance Project.

The Waterfront Museum will use its funding for a project to showcase the historic nature of the waterway, including a floating classroom for maritime and environmental education in Red Hook.

Woodhull Medical Center will use the \$375,000 to establish a community-based asthma-management program, which will apply a family-centered approach to asthma treatment in the area of North Brooklyn.

## Immigration 'Win' Declared for Local Family

Congresswoman Nydia M. Velázquez declared an immigration win for Faisal Ulvie of Pakistan and his wife, Nadine, an American citizen and a long-time Brooklyn resident, when she intervened during his near deportation.

"My office helps immigrants like Faisal's everyday, whether it is preserving their right to naturalize or reuniting families by bringing siblings, husbands, daughters, and parents here from other countries," Congresswoman Velázquez said.

She intervened on behalf of Mr. Ulvie for several compelling reasons, including his right to due process, his marriage to a U.S. citizen, and his residency in her district.

Mr. Ulvie appeared in court and was granted the right to re-apply and adjust status here in the United States, allowing him to stay here legally with his family.



**Congresswoman Velázquez spoke to media during a press conference.**

# Local Bank Celebrates DUMBO Branch

## Independence Community Bank (ICB) opens new branch in DUMBO

Congresswoman Nydia M. Velázquez joined other elected officials, Independence Community Bank (ICB) President Alan Fishman, DUMBO developers and ICB staffers to celebrate the grand opening of ICB's new branch in the DUMBO neighborhood on the downtown Brooklyn waterfront.

"The launching of ICB's new branch in DUMBO is indicative of the renaissance changes this Brooklyn neighborhood has been undergoing," Congresswoman Velázquez said. "Additions such as this help to stimulate and strengthen the local economy."

It is the first bank in the area to serve the commercial, residential and manufacturing community there. ICB was also the first bank to open a branch in Red Hook.



**Congresswoman Velázquez celebrated opening of new DUMBO branch.**

# Sunset Park Health Center Opens

## New Brooklyn Chinese Family Health Center grand opening

Congresswoman Velázquez participated in the grand opening of the new Brooklyn Chinese Family Health Center (BCFHC). The event was attended by several elected officials and included a tour of the new facility.

"BCFHC is an outstanding addition to the Lutheran Family Health Center and will be a strong enhancement to Brooklyn's Chinese community," Congresswoman Velázquez said. "Thank you to the private sector for helping to make this facility a reality."

The BCFHC is a satellite of Lutheran Family Health Centers, and is a 4,000 square foot facility located in the heart of Sunset Park. The BCFHC staff is fully bilingual in Cantonese and Mandarin.



**Congresswoman Velázquez spoke to the audience at the opening of the BCFHC.**

# Velázquez Holds Student Forum

## Answers 9th graders' questions about political topics



**Congresswoman Velázquez responds to questions and concerns of Bushwick students.**

Congresswoman Velázquez spoke to a group of twenty 9th grade Bushwick high school students on various political topics, including President Bush's plans for war with Iraq. Velázquez had received numerous letters from the students with questions and opinions on current affairs that they had submitted as a class assignment. Velázquez spent approximately an hour in an open forum discussion and Q & A session with the 9th graders to address their concerns.

"The open forum I had with these students was an excellent opportunity for me to hear their concerns and opinions," Congresswoman Velázquez said. "Part of providing a quality education includes giving children in our community the opportunity to speak with elected officials on important issues."

## [Grants Awarded to Our Community](#)

Lutheran Medical Center.....\$312,257  
Funding for early intervention services with respect to HIV disease

The Brooklyn Hospital Center.....\$568,594  
Funding for early intervention services with respect to HIV disease